Services provided by BIS

2392. SHRILAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the recent steps taken by Government to increase the services provided by BIS in various parts of the country, specifically to Northern India;

(b) the reasons for the shortage of technical manpower;

(c) what are the differences between the different certifications such as product certification, quality mangement certification etc.; and

(d) the products that have been given the BIS mark by the State level Committee in Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) (a)To cater to the needs of industries and consumers, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has established its Branch Offices in various parts of the country including five Offices in Northern India at Chandigarh, Kanpur, Lucknow, Faridabad and Nalagarh.The Branch office at Nalagrah has been opened recently. To facilitate convenient accessibility to the services provided by BIS, it has also launched its own website at http:// www.bis.org.in. which contains complete information about the organization and the services offered by it.

(b) Vacancies in BIS are filled up as per guidelines issued by the Central Government from time to time.

(c)The details are given in the enclosed Statement (See below)

(d)The State level Committees are not empowered to grant licenses for use of BIS Mark.

Statement

Details of the various certification schemes of Bureau of Indian Standards

i) Product Certification Scheme - Under this scheme licences are granted to manufacturers for using the BIS Standard mark (Popularly known as ISI mark) on their products after the manufacturers have been found suitable through pre-licence

inspection, testing of samples and evaluation of technical competence. After grant of certification of quality of the products certified is checked through regular surveillance on the manufactures set-up and testing of samples taken from the factory as well as from the market.The products are regularly tested in the Bureau's own laboratory as well as laboratories recognized for this purpose.

ii) Quality Systems Certification Scheme - Under this scheme product manufacturing firms as well as service providers are granted licences for using the Quality Systems Certification Mark of the Bureau after their quality management systems have been found to be conforming to ISO 9001 or ISO 9002 International Standards. After grant of licence surveillance visits are carried out regularly to ensure that the licensed organizations are maintaining the norms required underthese standards. Under this scheme, licences have also been granted for certification of food safety to those manufacturers who have installed check points in the food chain according to Indian Standard IS 15000: 1998 Hazard Analysis & Critical Control Points.

iii) Environment Systems Certification - Under this scheme organizations who maintain environment protection norms according to ISO 14000 series of International Standards are granted licences.

iv) Hallmarking of Gold Jewellery - Under this scehem the BIS certifies the jewellers for purity of Gold and also gives recognition to Assaying and Hallmarking Centres that conduct the testing for purity of gold.

v) Certification of Foreign Manufacturers and Indian Importer's Scheme - Under this scheme the quality of goods being imported into India can be certified either by granting licences to manufacturers situated in a foreign country or to importer situated in India.This scheme operates in a manner similar to BIS Product Certification Scheme.

C AGs criticism of foodgrain prices

2393. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General of India has criticized the Centre's policy on prices of foodgrains;